(vi) Need to allocate adequate quota of fertilizers to Orissa and Madhya Pradesh through the Marketing Division of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the management of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation has decided to close down its marketing set-up in Orissa region. The marketing set-up of Madhya Pradesh region has been closed recently. The management's plea is that adequate stock of fertilizer is not available for sale to these States.

Since 1968-69, these Regional Marketing Offices are in operation. There is a Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division which is engaged in educating farmers in balanced and scientific use of fertilizers thereby creating effective demand for optimising productivity.

Our country imports around 30 lakh tonnes of fertilisers to meet our requirement. The marketing infrastructure of HFC had been selling a share of this imported quota.

The closure of the Regional Offices, one after the other, will severely affect the smooth flow of fertilizers to the farmers of these States and will also render about 200 employees of Marketing Division jobless.

The need of the hour is to allocate adequate quota of fertilizers to these Regions through the Marketing Division of HFC from the imported pool and also from other sources in public and cooperative sectors.

(vii) Need to take steps for protection and beautification of Jhansi Fort and Palace of Rani Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Sir, I am raising the following matter under Rule 377:—

I would like to inform the hon. Minister in charge of the Archaeological Department that the historic fort of Maharani Lakshmibai in Jhansi and her palace situated in the centre of the city are in a very dilapidated condition. With a view to beautify this fort of national importance and develop it as a resort of tourist attraction, many acres of land was acquired around this place by the Archaeological Department.

The existing condition of the fort and the palace is very poor. The land acquired for tourism purposes has been encroached upon in an unauthorised manner.

The Central Government should take immediate steps for the beautification of this fort which is remembered for a number of memorable activities of great freedom fighter, Maharani Lakshmibai and the unauthorised, encroachers on the acquired land should also be got vacated.

The antiques preserved in the palace of the Maharani would get transferred to the proposed museum after its construction. So the Government should make it clear as to how the palace of the Maharani would be developed by the Archaeological Department so that misgivings among the people could be removed.

There is a lot of resentment among the people over the Government's neglect of the Maharani's memorials. Concrete measures should be taken immediately to remove the resentment among the people.